

**May 11-13, 2013**

**Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.**

### **The Detroit News: Court: Ficano can't tap Wayne County retirees' fund, must repay \$32M**

"Wayne County's shaky finances took another blow Friday, when a court ruled it must repay \$32 million that Executive Robert Ficano redirected from a pension fund used to pay bonuses to retirees.... Pension lawyers called the move illegal and the Court of Appeals agreed in a decision released Friday."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Brian Dickerson: Ex-justices rule current Supreme Court guilty of partisanship**

"The last thing you want when you have made your way to the top position on your state's highest court is for a bunch of your most distinguished predecessors to start suggesting — all at once, and very publicly — that you are making a hash of the job."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Free Press: Wanted for not paying child support? Wayne Co. amnesty program can help**

"Wayne County court officials are hoping an amnesty program launched this month will help clear up some of the roughly 30,000 outstanding bench warrants for unpaid child support. The program, a first for the Wayne County Friend of the Court, runs through May 24. It's aimed at increasing collection rates and decreasing bench warrants."

[Full story](#)

### **Associated Press: AG: Medical marijuana doesn't spoil custody cases**

"Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette says parents who use medical marijuana aren't disqualified from having custody of children or visiting them.... [Schuette] says it's appropriate for a judge to determine whether there are unreasonable dangers for children, similar to a parent's approved use of other controlled substances."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Lansing State Journal and the Times Herald/Port Huron.**

***Also see:***

### **The MiLW Blog: AG opines on medical marijuana and child-protective proceedings**

[Full story](#)

### **Battle Creek Enquirer: Grants awarded by FireKeepers board**

"The FireKeepers Local Revenue Sharing Board gave out \$187,875 to government programs and schools at a meeting Friday.... [Recipients of those grants include:]... \$20,000 apiece went to a Kellogg Community College scholarship and Calhoun County's 10th District Court's sobriety and veterans' court projects."

[Full story](#)

### **Battle Creek Enquirer: Class Notes: Olivet College leadership dinner Thursday (third article)**

"Olivet College said in a news release it will host its 17th annual Leadership for Individual and Social Responsibility Awards Dinner May 16 at the Country Club of Lansing.... This year's honorees include ...

Conrad Mallett Jr., chief administrative officer and general counsel for Detroit Medical Center and former chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

### **Detroit Legal News: Cooley Law, Oakland University to hold summit on bullying**

"Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Oakland University will host 'Working Together to Stop School Violence: A Statewide Summit on Bullying' on Friday, June 7 at Cooley's Auburn Hills campus [from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.]... Presenters include Hon. M.T. Thompson, Jr., district court judge, Saginaw County; Monica Nuckolls, professor, Cooley Law School; and Dr. Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, professor, Oakland University."

[Full story](#)

### **Flint Journal: Soon-to-be state Sen. Jim Ananich holds ceremonial swearing-in with family, supporters at Flint home on Mother's Day (with video)**

"State Rep. Jim Ananich waited as wife Andrea Ananich ran into the couple's Flint home to dig out a Bible for a Sunday, May 12 ceremonial swearing-in ceremony with District Judge Nathaniel Perry III."

[Full story](#)

### **Ingham County Legal News: Newest justice addresses Cooley Law students on ethics and civility**

"The Michigan Supreme Court's newest appointee, Justice David Viviano, was the keynote speaker for the Professionalism in Action orientation at Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus on Tuesday, April 30.... Viviano, a University of Michigan Law School graduate, was appointed to the court by Gov. Rick Snyder in February 2013."

[Full story](#)

**Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.**

### **Ingham County Legal News: Davis-Dunnings Bar Association holds 17th Otis M. Smith Scholarship Banquet**

"... [Judge] R. George Economy was awarded the 2013 Distinguished Barrister award. This award recognizes an outstanding member of the legal community whose distinguished career demonstrates exemplary character and service to his community. Judge Economy was selected for his many accomplishments both as a lawyer and as Ingham County Probate Judge for the past 28 years."

[Full story](#)

### **Jackson County Legal News: Michigan Supreme Court rules: Employee motivation for making a whistleblower claim is not relevant**

Richard W. Warren and Leigh M. Schultz write "An employee's motivation for making a whistleblower claim is not relevant to his lawsuit under the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA), the Michigan Supreme Court ruled in *Whitman v. City of Burton* on May 1."

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Amnesty offered through May**

"The City of Hamtramck and the 31st District Court are teaming up to offer a month long amnesty program titled, 'Make It Right In May'. This program, which runs through the month of May, is designed to encourage individuals and businesses to 'make right' any outstanding violations they may have with the city or the court, according to organizers."

[Full story](#)

### **Macomb County Legal News: Resolution Center hosts annual fundraiser**

"The focus of The Resolution Center's annual 'Evening at the Movies' is raising funds to support its programs but attention also is given to volunteers who help those initiatives succeed.... During the evening, the center also presented its Conflict Resolution Advocacy Award to the Restorative Justice and Peer Mediation Team."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Cavanagh honored**

"The Catholic Lawyers Society (CLS) hosted its Annual Meeting and Brunch on Sunday, April 28, at The Ark at St. Ambrose in Grosse Pointe Park. After mass and during the brunch, Michigan Supreme Court Justice Michael Cavanagh was presented with the Monsignor Malloy Award, the highest honor given by the CLS."

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Gov. Snyder makes two judicial appointments**

"Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder last Thursday appointed Arthur Cotter, of St. Joseph, to the 5th District Court in Berrien County and Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney Jeffery Sauter as a 56th Circuit Court judge. The Cotter appointment fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Angela M. Pasula who was elected to the circuit court.... The Sauter appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Calvin Osterhaven."

[Full story](#)

**Also see:**

### **Dowagiac Daily News: Berrien County prosecutor appointed as judge**

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: Governor Appoints Arthur Cotter To Berrien County District Court**

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: Governor Appoints Jeffrey Sauter To Eaton County Circuit Court**

[Full story](#)

### **Oakland County Legal News: Former prosecutor begins new role on bench**

"While attending law school, Byron Konschuh envisioned a career combining his law degree with his future MBA, perhaps sitting behind a desk writing briefs, or doing research, or some sort of behind-the-scenes work in business."

[Full story](#)

### **SBM Blog: Michigan: "World Capital of Anonymity-busting Subpoenas?"**

"A Court of Appeals decision addressing the right to anonymity of a blogger who is being sued by Cooley for defamation and tortious interference has prompted this post by an 'IP maven' speculating that Michigan 'just become the world capital of anonymity-busting subpoenas.' "

[Full story](#)

### **Tuscola County Advertiser: Judge bans mobile devices, phones in Tuscola courthouse**

"Because of the widespread use of cell phones with cameras, a ban on mobile electronic devices in the Tuscola County Courthouse was issued by District Court Judge Kim Glaspie, who is the court's chief judge.... According to Tuscola County Court Administrator Donna Fraczek, the rule change isn't in reaction to an incident, but rather to the instances of phones ringing during court proceedings."

[Full story](#)

### **Washtenaw County Legal News: All in the Family - Court reporters have long history in Washtenaw County**

"As a court recorder in Washtenaw County for 35 years, Amy Shankleton-Novess has some simple advice for young litigators: When you're making your final arguments in that courtroom, stay put. Otherwise, she said, some of your carefully crafted verbiage won't get recorded."

[Full story](#)